

High Risk Perinatal Program/ Neonatal Intensive Care Program

Goals:

The goal of the HRPP/NICP program is to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity utilizing the following strategies:

- Early identification of women and children at high risk for mortality and morbidity;
- Education for health professionals, families and communities;
- Linkage of infants, toddlers and pregnant women to risk appropriate services;
- Establishment of standards of care

Program Components:

Maternal and Neonatal Transport Services provide medical consultation and case management related to treatment/stabilization and, if needed, maternal and/or neonatal transport to higher level(s) of care. Infant transport back to the community hospital near the family after the acute hospitalization allows families to visit and learn to care for their baby.

Hospital and Inpatient Physician Services provide comprehensive, developmentally and risk appropriate care to critically ill infants within a hospital setting that is caring and supportive to the infant and their extended family. The program contracts with hospitals across the state that are certified by the Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT) / Arizona Perinatal Regional System (APRS). Contracted physician groups provide medical care to program infants during the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) hospitalization.

Community Nursing Services facilitates the transition of the child and family from the Newborn Intensive Care Unit to their home and community. Periodic monitoring of the child's medical and developmental needs identifies infants who would benefit from referral to other early intervention programs. Through these home visits, the family receives support and education as well as referral to appropriate community resources.

Developmental Follow-Up Services provides developmental assessments for HRPP/NICP enrolled infants after discharge when there are concerns about potential developmental delay. A primary care provider must make the referral for Developmental Services. Eligible infants receive periodic in depth developmental assessments using a multi-disciplinary approach. This service is for infants who are not eligible for the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP) and do not have health insurance that covers developmental assessments.

Funding

The program is funded through the Arizona Legislature. In FY 2007 the Legislature increased funding to, among other things; better enable the Community Health Nurses to follow every infant more closely.

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Target Audience:

Infants of parents who reside in Arizona who spend at least 72 hours in a Newborn Intensive Care Nursery Pregnant and women in imminent danger of a premature delivery or the delivery of a critically ill infant needing transport to a higher level of care.

Why is this Program Needed?

The Program:

- Assures that all Arizona's high risk pregnant women and critically ill newborns receive timely access to appropriate medical care without regard to geographic location or ability to pay
- Provides interventions which result in the reduction of infant and maternal deaths and improved medical and developmental outcomes
- Provides support to families who have been impacted by the birth of a critically ill infant
- Assists families in the development of a secure and nurturing environment which will increase their child's ability to learn and grow
- Connects families with early intervention services which can increase the child's chances for optimal development and learning

What has the Program Achieved?

- 5,203 infants were enrolled in NICP
- Community Health Nurses visited 5,460 of the NICP enrolled infants
- 1,479 critically ill pregnant women were transported to the appropriate level of care
- 1,096 critically ill newborns were transported to the appropriate level of care
- 315 infants were transported back closer to home when medically indicated

For Additional Information Contact:

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